

Editor

You take someone else's writing and make it clear, correct and fit for its reader.

TYPICAL PAY

\$72,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$104k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Publishers, magazines, government offices, companies, freelance

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 10 to 12
English above all. Write, and get used to having your own work marked up.
- 2 Degree or diploma** 2 to 4 years
English, journalism, communications or publishing. Editors also come from science, law and engineering and edit in those fields.
- 3 Learn the actual craft** 6 months to 2 years, often part time
An editing certificate or Editors Canada workshops. You learn the levels of editing, mark-up, and Canadian style rules.
- 4 First paid edits** During and after school
Student publications, a small press, a non-profit newsletter, an internship at a publisher. Build a list of jobs you can name.
- 5 Staff job or freelance list** 1 to 4 years in
Either an in-house role, or four or five regular clients who send work without being chased.

Pros and cons

- + Quiet, absorbing work for people who like getting things right
- + Freelance friendly and genuinely location independent
- + Skills transfer into government, technical and corporate writing where pay is higher
- Book publishing pays poorly and hires rarely
- Job Bank rates the 3-year outlook as limited in Ontario and Quebec
- The work is invisible when it is done well

Optional boosts

Medical and scientific editing. Technical and standards editing. Plain language. French to English editing.

Good to know

Canada has its own style rules

Canadian editing sits between British and American conventions: British spellings like colour and centre, but American punctuation habits in many house styles. Editors keep a style sheet for every singl...

Proofreading is not editing

They are different jobs done at different stages. Proofreading happens after layout and catches what the copy editor and the typesetter missed. Asking for one and expecting the other is the most common...

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Editor in Canada, wages (updated November 2025)

Job Bank: Editor in Canada, job outlook

Editors Canada: professional certification

Government of Canada: culture, history and sport

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/editor>



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